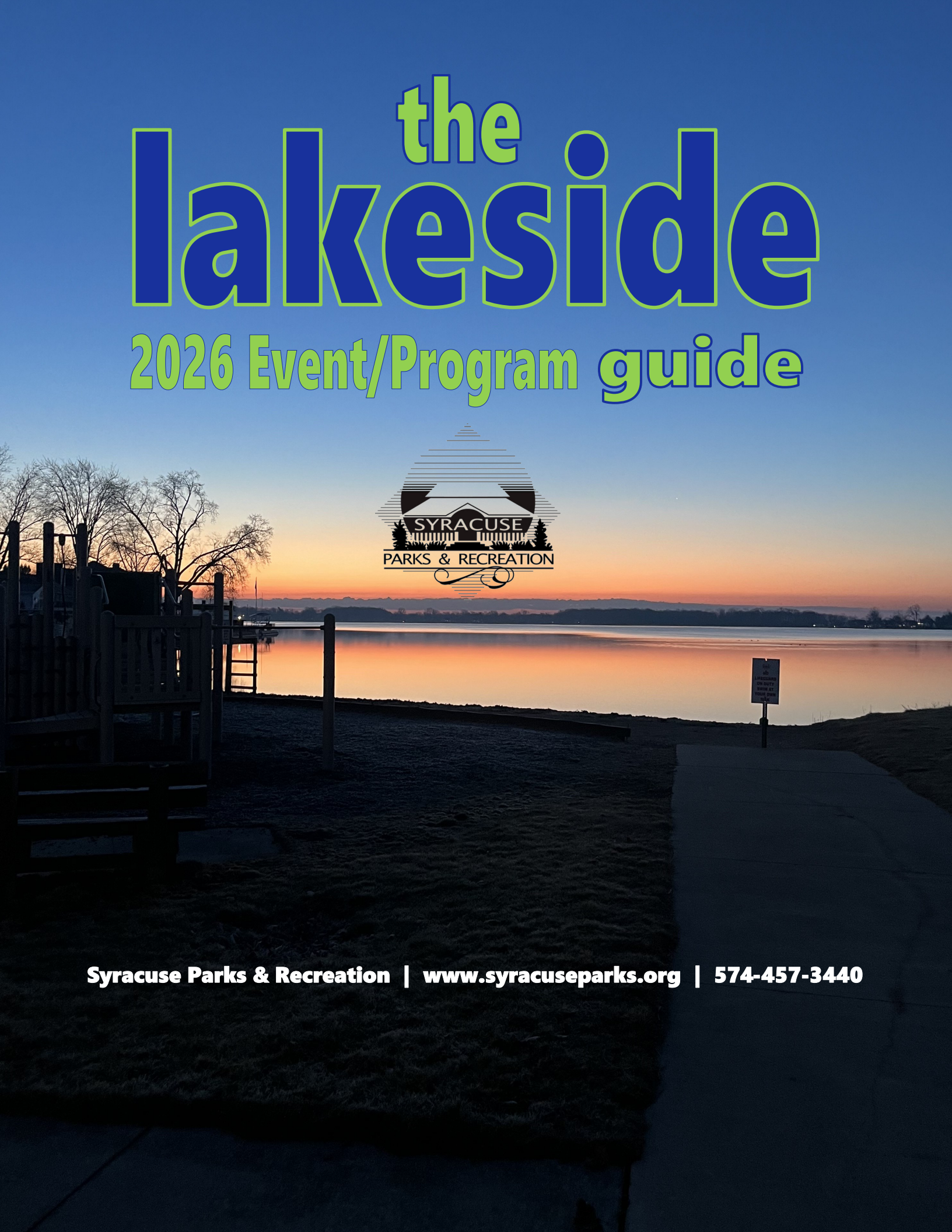
the lakeside

2026 Event/Program guide



Syracuse Parks & Recreation | www.syracuseparks.org | 574-457-3440

Park Board Members

Paul Newcomer, President
Jeff Nicodemus, Vice President
Jenell Lehman, Member
Kristin Abbs, Member
Jace Stewart, Member
Brent Berkypile, Member
Kip Schumm, Advisor
Carol Koble, Advisor

The Syracuse Parks and Recreation Board meets at 5:30PM at the Syracuse Community Center the second Monday of each month.

Mission Statement

To provide recreational services and facilities that positively impact the health of our citizens, environment, economy and quality of life in our community.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering contact Darin at dlursen@syracuse.in.org or call the Community Center at 574-457-3440.

Park Staff

Chad Jonsson
Park Superintendent
Darin Lursen
Program Director
Garrett Baldridge
Maintenance Supervisor
Amanda Torres
Administrative Assistant
Brenda Kruse
Office Assistant
Dixie Mullins
Office Assistant
Allison Kenworthy
Office Assistant

Contact Information

Syracuse Parks and Recreation
1013 North Long Dr.
Syracuse, IN 46567
P: 574-457-3440
F:574-457-2693

Community Center Hours

8AM-8PM Monday-Thursday
8AM-7PM Friday
8AM-5PM Saturday

"like" us on facebook

follow us on twitter

www.facebook.com/syracuseparks

www.syracuseparks.org

Subscribe to our eNewsletter

Text 22828 to syracuseparks to receive our monthly e-newsletters!

Holiday Closures

Friday, April 17
Good Friday

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day

Friday, July 3
Independence Day

Monday, September 7
Labor Day

Tuesday, November 10
Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving

December 24-25
Christmas



Mudtastic Classic

Saturday, June 20, 2026

WACF Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes &

Welcome to the Annual Mudtastic Classic! This family-friendly trail run will be held on Saturday, June 20 on trails near the Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes & Wetlands Education Center located on SR 13 one mile south of Syracuse. The run will feature several fun and challenging obstacles along trails near Lake Wawasee. Both adults and kids (ages 7-14) will have the opportunity to participate in teams or as individuals.

Registration

Registration opens on Monday, March 10. Participants can register at the Syracuse Community Center or online at www.runreg.com/mudtasticclassic. The fees are $25/adult and $25/youth. **Register by June 5th to receive a T-Shirt.**

Schedule

8:00AM:Check-In Begins

9:00AM: Waves depart

*Schedule is subject to change based on registration numbers. Runners will be notified of their starting time the week of the event

Princess Party with Moana
Saturday, February 21, 2026
Syracuse Community Center

You and your special guest are invited to a magical party featuring Moana! There will be singing, dancing, crafts, and photo opportunities. Dress in your favorite attire and join Moana in a magical adventure. Don't forget your camera! Lite snacks and beverages are included.

Tickets are available on Eventbrite or at the Syracuse Community Center with cash or check. A maximum of two adults may accompany each child. Space is limited so be sure to buy your tickets before they sell out! Must purchase a ticket for each child and adult attending. Registrations will not be accepted over the phone.

For more information please contact the Syracuse Community Center at parkoffice@syracusein.org or call 574-457-3440.



Fun, Fantasy and Delight for All Princesses to Enjoy!



Lakeside Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 12
Lakeside Park

Join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lakeside Park on Saturday, April 12! The event is open to all children in grades 5 and under. Each age group will have its own designated area. After the hunt, kids will have an opportunity to take a picture with the Easter Bunny and collect their prize. This event is sponsored by the Syracuse Knights of Columbus Council 6323.

Age 0-3: 10AM

Age 4-6: 10:30AM

Age 7-10: 11AM

Touch-A-Truck

574-457-3440

TOUCH A TRUCK

Saturday, May 2

10:00am-12:30pm

Touch-A-Truck is a **free** hands-on event that provides kids with the opportunity to see, touch and explore their favorite big trucks, heavy equipment and emergency vehicles as well as interact with community support leaders including police officers, firemen, construction workers and more! Bring out the entire family to enjoy sitting in these trucks and learning about what they do, how they work and how they benefit our community!

Vehicles will include:

Fire Trucks | Tow Truck | Ambulance

Police Cars | School Bus | Semi-Truck

Tractors | Construction Equipment | And more!







Artisans & Farmers Market
Saturdays, 9:00AM-1:00PM
May 16 - September 5
Veteran's Memorial Park at Crosson Mill

The 17th season of the Artisans & Farmers Market opens on Saturday, May 16! Beautiful displays of locally grown produce, flowers, baked goods and art fill the park to create a diverse and friendly community shopping experience. Located directly off of State Route 13 in the heart of town, residents and visitors come together on Saturdays from May through September to celebrate local food and art in the park. For up to date information on vendors, entertainment and special events, please visit www.syracusefarmersmarket.org. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Darin Lursen, Market Director, at 574-457-3440 or dlursen@syracusein.org.

Wawasee Summer League
Harold Schrock Athletic Complex

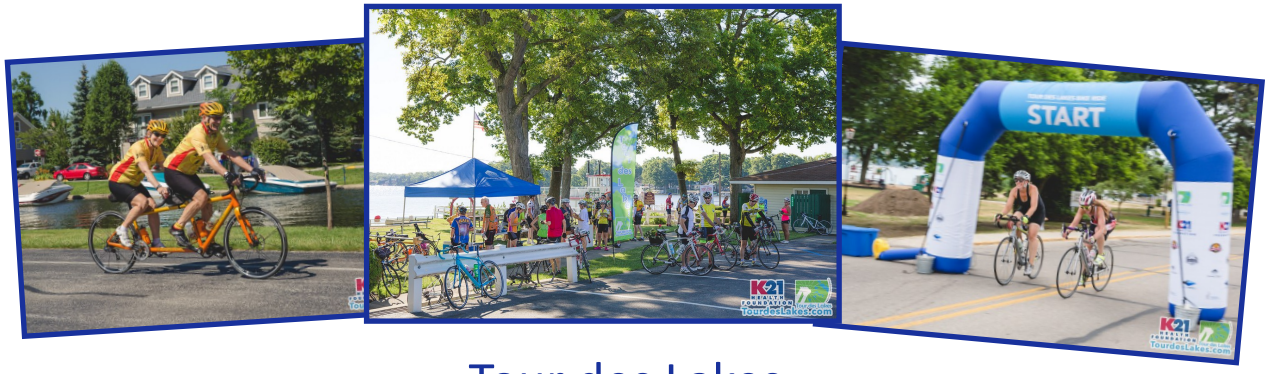
Our friends at the Wawasee Summer League invite all local children to play ball! Opening day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 at the Harold Schrock Athletic Complex. Participants can register online at www.wawaseesummerleague.org or in person during one of the below dates. For more information, e-mail wawaseesummerleague@gmail.com.

Registration

Register Online: www.WawaseeSummerLeague.org.

By Mail: Mail form (with payment) to: WCSL P.O. Box 653 Syracuse, IN 46567

Drop Off: Form and payment in Lakeland Youth Center drop box located at 101 W. Chicago St, Syracuse, IN 46567



Tour des Lakes

Bike Ride

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Join us for the 15th annual Tour des Lakes, a leisurely bike ride around eight beautiful lakes in Kosciusko County. There are three route options; 30k, 55k and 100k. The 100k is our most popular route and guides riders around several beautiful lakes, including Lake Wawasee, Webster Lake, Chapman Lake, Winona Lake and Tippecanoe Lake.

Between the lakes, you will enjoy a stunning ride across the country-side and through quaint small towns. There will be SAG stops for a quick healthy snack and drink, followed by lunch once you return to the Syracuse Community Center. A portion of the proceeds are used for the continued growth of the Syracuse-Wawasee Trail system. **For more information or to register, visit www.tourdeslakes.com.**





Pee Wee Football
Harold Schrock Complex
Registration: March 1 @ www.niyfl.org
Season Starts Late July

Divisions

- Ages 7-8 Rookie Tackle
- Ages 9-10 Pony Tackle
- Ages 11-12 Bronco Tackle

For more information visit www.wawaseepeewee.org or contact the league President Erick Leffler at ericklefflerr@gmail.com.

Harvest FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 3, 2026

10:00AM-2:00PM

Lakeside Park

Come celebrate fall at this popular community event! Hosted alongside the final date of the Artisans & Farmers Market, the Fall Harvest Festival will have several fun activities for the entire family to enjoy. In addition to the market, the following attractions are scheduled:



Entertainment Schedule

Inflatables: 10AM-2PM

Petting Zoo/Pony Rides: 10AM-1PM

Music: 11:00AM-1:00PM



Family & Youth Activities

Hay Rides | Petting Zoo

Pony Rides | Pumpkin Decorating Games | Food Vendors | Inflatable Games | Face Painting

Antique Tractor Show

NIPSCO
CHORE-TIME
Lake City Bank
POLYWOOD





Trick or Treat Trail

Saturday, October 24, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Syracuse Community Center

Come join us at Lakeside Park for a fun safe afternoon of Trick or Treating and games! We will be joined by multiple different community groups and businesses to hand out candy and provide games for all the trick or treaters.



Community Garage Sales

October 10, 2026 & March 6, 2027

9:00AM-2:00PM

Syracuse Community Center

Clean out the basement, attic, garage or closet and sign up for one of our indoor garage sales! Cost for one 10'x10' space is $15.00. Tables are available to rent for $5.00/each or vendors can bring their own. Vendors may only reserve one space each. Spaces for the October sale will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis starting **September 2 @ 4 PM** while spaces for the March sale will be reserved starting **January 6, 2027.**

Booth is not reserved until paid for at the Syracuse Community Center



Adult Basketball League

Fee: $375/team

Game-days: Sunday

Opening Date: January 3

Teams may register starting Wednesday, November 4. The **complete fee and team rosters must be submitted by Wednesday, December 16**. A minimum of 6 teams must sign and a maximum of 8 may participate. Roster forms and league rules will be available to pick up at the Syracuse Community Center or downloaded at www.syracuseparks.org once registration opens. All players must be at least 18 years old and out of high school.

Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, November 28, 6:00 PM-8:00PM

Oakwood Resort

Free!

Meet Santa, the Grinch, Frosty, and more! Attend a chapel reading of the Christmas story, see the live nativity, pet a live reindeer, enjoy musical groups, take a family photo in our photo booth, enjoy some caroling, and more!

Be sure to come early to enjoy the music and festivities! The tree lighting will be at 6:15, don't miss it!





Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 5, 8:00AM-11:00AM

Syracuse Community Center

Santa Claus is coming to town! Join Santa for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and refreshments. After breakfast, kids can make a craft, write a letter to Santa or enjoy some cookies and milk while listening to the Wawasee High School Christmas Band. The admission is $6.00 for adults and free for kids.









Reservations for the park pavilions are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations can be made in person at the Syracuse Community Center or via mail. A reservation secures the facility from 8AM-8PM. Full payment in the form of cash, check or credit card is required to hold the date. Facilities are typically available to reserve between mid-May to mid-October. Please call or visit the Community Center to check availability.



Park	Fee
Lakeside Park Pavilion	$60.00
Lakeside Park Gazebo	$60.00
Veteran's Memorial Pavilion	$60.00
Ward Park Pavilion	$60.00



The Syracuse Community Center has rooms to rent for all occasions. Select your room set-up with either round or rectangle tables. Reservations are made up to one year in advance. Please call us or visit during our business hours for details concerning availability and set-up options.



Kiwanis Room

- Perfect for smaller parties

Check our website for more rental information!

Celebration Hall

- Perfect for medium-large parties
- Nice view of Syracuse Lake





Gym

- Perfect for large groups and events

For more rental pictures visit our website!

Kiwanis Room		Celebration Hall		Gymnasium	
50 max. occupancy		80 max. occupancy		200 max. occupancy	
Resident:	$125	Resident:	$175	Resident:	$400
Non-Resident:	$150	Non-Resident:	$200	Non-Resident:	$500
Security Deposit:	$150	Security Deposit:	$150	Security Deposit:	$500

Security Deposit will be collected for all rentals in order to reserve the space. Security Deposit will be refunded 30-60 days after event as long as the room is left in good condition.

Fitness Room

The fitness room at the Syracuse Community Center features several pieces of commercial equipment including: treadmills, ellipticals, recumbent bikes, weight machines and free weights. The room is free for public use, but all users must fill out a registration form prior to exercising.

K21 HEALTH FOUNDATION





Fitness Room Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8AM-8PM

Friday: 8AM-7PM

Saturday: 8AM-5PM

Nutrition Program
Monday-Friday (ongoing)
11:00AM-1:00PM
Kiwanis Room

This program is designed to provide low cost nutritious meals with recreational activities such as; cards, bingo, board games, puzzles, crafts and informational programs in centers located in Kosciusko County. The program promotes better health among older adults through improved nutrition and the pleasure derived from group participation. The suggested donation is $4.25 per meal. Menus can be found in Senior Life, a monthly publication distributed throughout Kosciusko County. For more information or to register for a lunch, contact Carolyn Hapner at 574-457-2631.

Pickleball
Monday-Friday (ongoing)
10:00AM-12:00PM
Gymnasium

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. The sport is played with hard paddles and wiffle balls, making the technique required for pickleball different than other racket sports. Participants of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to give this new, fun and accessible sport a try. Equipment is provided. For up to date information on Pickleball whereabouts, contact the Syracuse Community Center at 574-457-3440.



Walking Program
Monday-Saturday (ongoing)
8:00AM-10:00AM
Gymnasium

Grab your sneakers and get with the walking program! Laps are recorded so participants can track their progress. Come have fun, make new friends and walk your way to a healthier lifestyle.



Bingo
Tuesdays (ongoing)
9:00AM-10:00AM
Kiwanis Room

Are you looking to win some prizes and make some new friends? Come play Bingo with us on Tuesdays!

Located inside the Syracuse Community Center

Open Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00AM-2:00PM

www.syracusemuseum.org





Youth History Club

Dates & Time: TBA

Sign up for the Youth History Club! A few topics for this summer include:

- Archaeology with the IDNR
- A lesson on Milk
- Blacksmithing
- Map Reading
- Much More!

YHC will be once a week in June and July

Please visit www.syracusemuseum.org for full schedules and updates of events. The Youth History Club Schedule will be posted on the website during the first week of May.



Centennial Homes Presentations

The Centennial Homes program is back for 2024. Please check our website for updates!

March

7th: Indoor Garage Sale

14th: Rotary Texas Hold Em' Poker Tournament

22nd: Euchre Tournament

April

11th: Lakeside Egg Hunt

May

10th: Mother's Day

15th: Euchre Tournament

16th: Opening Day Farmer's Market

25th: Memorial Day

June

20th: Mudtastic Classic

July

3rd: Syracuse Fireworks

3rd: Flotilla Road Race 5k/8k

4th: Wawasee Fireworks

18th: Tour des Lakes

July-August

30-1: Town Wide Garage Sale

September

2nd: Fall Garage Sale Registration

October

3rd: Fall Harvest Festival

10th: Indoor Garage Sale

24th: Trick or Treat Trail

November

2nd: Adult Basketball League Registration

3rd: Voting

26th: Thanksgiving

28th: Old Fashioned Christmas-Oakwood

December

5th: Breakfast with Santa

25th: Christmas



Syracuse Lake Fireworks

Friday, July 3, Dusk

Take a seat at Lakeside Park and enjoy a beautiful firework display over Syracuse Lake! Attendees will also be able to enjoy food trucks and a live performance by the Lake Area Community Band at 7:00pm. The fireworks are sponsored by the Syracuse Lake Association. The Lake Wawasee Fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 4.



Town Wide Garage Sales

July 30-August 1

Clean out your basements, garages and closets to sell during the Town Wide Garage Sales! Garage Sale Permits do not have to be obtained during this weekend and we will advertise your listing free of charge in the July 29 edition of The Mail Journal and The Paper. **Call the Syacuse Community Center at 574-457-3440 by Thursday, July 23 at 5:00PM to ensure inclusion in the paper**. Printed versions of the listing can be picked up at the Syracuse Community Center once the sales begin.